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Urban District Council
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Loughton Urban District Council.

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1924.

BUCKHURST HILL:

PRINTED BY JOHN W. PHELP, QUEEN'S ROAD.

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Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1924.

To the Chairman and Members of the Loughton Urban District Council.

SIRS,

I have the honour to present you my Annual Report in the form directed by the Ministry of Health for 1924.

I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	3,961
Population (1924)	5,866
Number of Inhabited houses (1924) about)...	1,496
	(Number of working classes houses, 656).
Number of separate families, or separate occupiers (1924) not available.	
Rateable Value	£43,242 os. od.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£152 os. od.

II.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Births { Legitimate ... 80	37	43	2	Birth rate 13.6
Illegitimate ... 2	0			
Deaths ... 39	20	19		Death rate 6.8
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth ...				from Sepsis ... 0
				other causes 0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year, per 1000 births				37.5
Legitimate ... 1	1	2		Total 3
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
,, , Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
,, , Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...			0

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE INCIDENCE.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	3
1 and under	2	...	...	0
2 "	5	...	...	0
5 "	15	...	...	2
15 "	25	...	...	1
25 "	45	...	...	2
45 "	65	...	...	12
65 and upwards	...	...	...	19
				—
Total	...	...	39	

With reference to the vital statistics, it should be noted that the birth rate has declined from 15.1 in 1923 to 13.6; and the death rate has similarly fallen from 8.5 to 6.8.

Deaths of infants under 1 year have risen from 0 to 3, but two of these deaths were cases of infanticide. The rate per 1000 births for deaths of infants under one year from natural causes is therefore only 12.5.

Comparing the above figures with the average of 157 smaller towns (20,000—50,000 population) the birth rate is 5 per 1000 less; the death rate 4.6 per 1000 less; and the infant mortality 33.5 per 1000 births less, including the 2 infanticides: excluding these, it is 58.5 per 1000 births less. That is to say, the infant mortality of Loughton is about one-sixth of the average in smaller towns.

Comparative Table of Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1924.

(Provisional Figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1924, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1923. The Mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA-TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.
	All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Measles.	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Influenza.	Violence.	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certi- fied by Practitioners.	
England and Wales	18.8	12.2	10.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.44	7.3	75	6.9
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	19.4	12.3	10.0	0.0	0.0	8.1	0.0	0.40	9.2	80	9.0
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000)	18.9	12.1	10.0	—	0.0	8.0	0.0	0.36	6.2	71	5.5
London	18.7	12.1	10.0	0.0	0.0	6.2	0.0	0.36	8.4	69	8.6
Loughton	13.6	6.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.0	37	15.3

III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

The statistics of Infectious Diseases are unusually satisfactory for the year, as will be seen by a study of the following table. The numbers are less than in any year for the last quarter-of-a-century.

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria 0 0			
Scarlet Fever 5 3			
Enteric Fever 0 0			
Puerperal Fever 0 0			
Pneumonia 3			
Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary ... { M 0			
F 1			
Total—I 1			
(b) Non-Pulmonary { M 0			
F 0 0			
Total—0 0			
Chicken Pox		0	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum 0			
TOTALS 9 3 0			

IV.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There was no particular outbreak of disease in the district in 1924 which calls for attention.

V.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS,
AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE
FOR THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME—

- (a) General—A Queen's Nurse, supported by Voluntary Contributions.
- (b) For Infectious Diseases, Measles, etc. The Queen's Nurse. This Nurse also acts as Health Visitor.

MIDWIVES—

Only one, earning her own fees, not subsidised, but under the control of the County Council.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES—

The Child Welfare Centre, situated at St. Mary's Parish Room. Accommodation consists of a large Reception Room for undressing and weighing; and an adjoining Room for Consultations under the Medical Officer, provided by the Local Authority. A Staff of Voluntary Helpers carry out the work of Reception, Weighing and the Clerical duties. The Health Visitor attends the weekly meetings.

SCHOOL CLINICS—

The School Clinic for Loughton children is at Woodford and is under the management of the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS —

A County Council Tuberculosis Officer lives within two miles. The Tuberculosis Dispensary is at Epping, five miles distant.

VENEREAL DISEASES—

The County Council has arrangements whereby cases may be sent to London Centres.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL—

- (1) Tuberculosis: Various Institutions in the County, provided by the County Council.
- (2) Maternity: Nil.
- (3) Children: Nil.
- (4) Fever: An arrangement for beds in the Walthamstow Isolation Hospital made by the Local Authority.
- (5) Smallpox: Arrangements have been made with the East Ham Borough Council to remove and isolate cases at its Smallpox Hospital.

OTHER HOSPITALS—

The Forest Hospital, Buckhurst Hill, provides all the general needs, surgical and medical, of the district. It is supported by Voluntary Contributions, together with payments by Patients.

There is no institutional provision, other than the Poor Law Infirmary at Epping, for unmarried mothers and illegitimate infants in the district. Homeless children are taken in by a Voluntary Association, called "St. Faiths'." It is not confined to Loughton district, and it is not subsidised by the Local Authority. It is situated in the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) Infectious cases are removed to Walthamstow Isolation Hospital by the Ambulance belonging to that Institution.
- (b) Recently (March, 1925) the Council has made arrangements with the Walthamstow Ambulance Station, Willow Walk, E.17 (Telephone No.: Walthamstow 859) for the conveyance of accident cases from the district at any time during the day or night. The Ambulances are fully equipped and a qualified Nurse and an Orderly are in constant attendance. The Council have guaranteed to pay the Ambulance Brigade's charges in respect of calls made by the Police or other authorised persons.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE REPORT—

During the past year the Centre removed to St. Mary's Church Room in order to obtain the necessary increase of accommodation. The new arrangements have proved most satisfactory. The work of this Centre seems to be appreciated by all classes in the district.

Of the infants born in the district, 48 out of a total number of 80 births have attended. Attendances moreover have become more regular, the average being 16 attendances per infant out of a possible total of 50 sittings. As a continuous clinical record is kept of each child, it is obviously important that attendances should be regular, if both mother and child are to obtain the full benefit of the instruction, both personal and general.

It is once more emphasized that the Centre exists as an opportunity for instruction and guidance to all mothers resident in the district, and that in no sense is it to be regarded as either a charity or as taking the place of the usual consultation with the Private Practitioner should sickness occur.

The appointment of Nurse JONES as an additional Health Visitor

has been entirely justified: Nurse FLANDERS has taken the Parish of St. John's, and Nurse JONES that of St. Mary's; a more adequate looking up and supervision in the homes is thus ensured.

Grateful thanks are due to Mrs. FEATHERSTONHAUGH and her band of voluntary workers for the most efficient arrangement and management of the details in the Reception Room. Teas are provided by her for a small payment, the profits from which are entirely devoted to pay for in part a monster Xmas Tree and Tea. The registration and marshalling of attending mothers is perfectly carried out by other members of the Voluntary Staff. A Clothing Stall has been established where mothers can buy approved pattern garments at a minimum cost.

The Annual Prize Competition for the best infant or child in the various classes according to age was very well attended in July. Dr. WATNEY again very kindly acted as judge, and Lady LLOYD, of Rolls Park, very graciously presented the prizes.

The Medical Officer is glad to be able to inform the Council that he has again been able to supply such milk as is required for necessitous cases out of Private Funds.

He takes this opportunity of thanking everyone concerned for their unstinted help and loyalty in the work of this Welfare Centre.

Number on Register, Jan. 1st, 1924	...	166
, , Dec. 31st, 1924	...	150
Struck off during the year	...	74
Admissions during the year	...	58
Ages on Entry--Under 1 year	...	54
Over 1 year and under 2	...	2
Over 2 years	...	2
Number of attendances	...	2493
Visits paid by Health Visitors	...	739

VI.

LABORATORY WORK.

Samples of Sputa and Throat Swabs for Diphtheria are cultured and examined by the Medical Officer of Health in his private laboratory.

Anti-toxin and other sera are provided by the Local Authority and are issued on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS.

Local and Adoptive Acts.—The following Adoptive Acts are in force:

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, Part 3.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907, Parts 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9.

Bye-Laws:

New Streets and Buildings.

Respecting Nuisances.

„ Slaughter-houses.

„ Re-laying drains to existing houses.

Dairy Regulations and Dairy Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order, 1885.

VII.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

The work of the Inspector of Nuisances is given in the attached summary:

No. of Inspections made	...	...	955
„ Nuisances reported	...	...	28
Informal Notices served	...	...	26
Complaints received	...	...	3
Statutory Notices served	...	...	3
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	26
Summons or Legal Proceedings	...	—	—

INSPECTIONS.

	No. on Register.	No. Licensed.	No. of Inspections.	Condition.
Bakehouses	...	4	4	48 Good
Slaughterhouses	3	1	2	36 „

DISINFECTING is carried out by spraying and fumigating with "Formalin."

COWKEEPERS, 5; Visits, 96.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS, 3; Visits, 36.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS: Administered by County Council.

VIII.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (part time): A. BUTLER HARRIS, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., Oxon.

Sanitary Inspector (part time): J. T. HEATH, A.R., San. I.

Health Visitors (part time): Miss W. S. FLANDERS, Queen's Nurse, and Nurse G. JONES, C.M.B., Registered Midwife.

HOUSING.

There is ample evidence that Loughton after many years of slow development has started rapidly to expand.

The adoption of the Housing and Town Planning Act since my last Report, and the establishment of a permanent 'Bus route and garage, have no doubt stimulated those who are interested in Urban development to start Schemes.

The action of the Urban Council in making it possible for the small owner to buy his land and build his house has resulted in the building of 36 small houses during the year in Victory Way and High Beech Road. This has, however, not yet removed the housing difficulties of the working classes. There is still much overcrowding, and in several instances families are living in one room. It is very evident that these families can only be housed in cottages built by others and rented to them. In other words a type of cottage is required, cheaper and less pretensions, than those at present being erected. It is understood that a beginning has been made in Englands Lane. It is advised that a list be prepared of those families now living as sub-tenants, and that these be given the first claim on any new dwellings the rent of which is within their means.

Unless some definite steps can be taken by the Local Authority this undesirable form of overcrowding, not only will not be abolished, but may gradually actually increase. As there are some instances in which the head of the family is not anxious to secure adequate housing for those dependent upon him, it would seem necessary to invoke such means as are within the power of the Local Authority, as soon as accommodation becomes available.

Small villas and better class houses are rapidly increasing in number, no less than 40 having been erected during the past year.

The adoption of the Housing and Town Planning Act will ensure that the greater portion of the acreage of the District, as yet undeveloped, will be wisely laid out. The higher ground will be retained as residential, whilst the Roding Valley, along which a Main Road will eventually run, is reserved as a manufacturing and artisan area. Suitable areas also have been scheduled for recreation grounds. The number of houses allowed per acre by the Government precludes the possibility of overcrowded slums arising in the future.

It only remains to put in order or close those few insanitary dwellings which cannot be dealt with until accommodation can be found for their occupants. It is now six years since the end of the Great War, and it is felt that the policy of *laissez faire*, so necessary then, is no longer tenable now.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
(b) As part of Subsidy Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	36

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses Inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	22
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were Inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	3
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	0
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	26
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	3
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by Owners	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	—

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close —

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied —

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—

(a) by Owners —
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners —

C. *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders —

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made —

(3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit —

(4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —

(5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

(1) Name of area	No Unhealthy Area.
(2) Acreage	...	...	...
(3) Number of Working-Class Houses in area	...	...	...
(4) Number of Working-Class Persons to be displaced	...	...	...

IV.—Number of Houses not complying with the Building Bye-Laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town-Planning, &c., Act, 1919

I must take this opportunity of thanking the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. HEATH, for his unflagging interest in, and careful supervision of, the work of his department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. BUTLER HARRIS, M.A., M.B., B.C.H., OXON.

SUMMARY OF WORK

Carried out under the SANITARY INSPECTOR
in the Urban District of Loughton during the
Year ended December 31st, 1924.

Outstanding Nuisances, 1923	...	...	...	...	...	3
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	3
Nuisances detected without complaint	...	...	...	...	...	25
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	28
Notices Served (Informal)	...	...	...	...	...	26
,, (Formal)	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, H. & T. P. A., Sec. 27	...	...	...	...	...	3
,, " " " 17	...	...	...	...	...	—
,, " " " 15	...	...	...	...	...	—
Summons taken out	...	...	...	...	...	—
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cottages inspected under the H. & T. P. A., Sec. 27	...	...	...	...	...	25
,, " " " " 17	...	...	...	...	...	—
,, " " " " 15	...	...	...	...	...	3
Increase of Rents and Mortgage Acts —Certificates	...	...	...	...	...	—
Lodging-houses inspected (none in district)	...	...	...	...	Visits	—
Slaughter-houses (3 in district)	...	...	...	...	,,	36
Bakehouses inspected (4 in district)	...	...	...	...	,,	48
Dairies and Milkshops (3)	...	...	...	...	,,	36
Cowkeepers (5 in district)	...	...	...	...	,,	96
Workshops and Workplaces (15)	...	...	...	...	,,	58
Factories (6)	...	...	...	...	,,	23
Filthy Houses cleansed. Sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	8
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses placed in habitable repair	...	...	...	...	...	26
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Houses connected with sewers	...	...	...	...	...	96
,, " " " water mains	...	...	...	...	...	96
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed, or existing Privies altered; Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, or water supply otherwise amended	...	...	...	...	...	19
Drains entirely re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	—
Drains amended	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dustbins supplied	...	...	...	...	...	35
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	15
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	—
Samples of water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	...	...	...	...	...	—
Condemnation of unsound meat, bacon, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—

The total number of visits paid with reference to nuisances, cottages, dustbins, workshops, workplaces and factories, bakehouses, dairies and slaughter-houses, has been 955.

The house refuse is now collected weekly by Contract. 940 loads were collected in 1924.

(Signed) J. T. HEATH, A.R.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector.

APPENDIX.

RAINFALL, 1924.

IN INCHES.

			Buckhurst Hill.	High Beech.
January	...	...	2.83	2.70
February	...	...	0.78	0.72
March	...	...	0.88	1.19
April	...	...	3.03	3.32
May	...	...	3.07	3.29
June	...	...	2.28	2.33
July	...	...	4.14	4.16
August	...	...	2.34	2.65
September	2.98	3.27
October	3.52	3.75
November	2.53	2.49
December	3.26	3.13
<hr/>				
TOTALS	<u>31.64</u>	<u>33.00</u>
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There being no public or private meteorological station in the district the above records are inserted with the suggestion that possibly Loughton comes midway between.

The rainfall was approximately six inches above the average and the rainfall for 1921 which was a very dry season was, 15.22 inches.

